

In the Claims:

1. A method for translating control messages between a network manager and a router, the method comprising:

intercepting an input command message intended for said router, said

5 router partitioned into a plurality of logical router partitions, said input command message expressed in terms of a logical router partition;

translating the logical router partition expressed in said input command message into a physical router expression; and

propagating said input command message, including any translated

10 expressions, toward said router.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of translating comprises:

translating a logical target identifier to a physical router target identifier.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said intercepting step comprises:

indexing said logical target identifier with an input correlation tag of said input command message.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

20 intercepting a return message from the router, said return message expressed in physical router terms;

translating said physical router expression of said return message into a logical router partition and

propagating said translated return message toward said network manager.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of translating said physical router expression comprises:

translating a physical router target identifier to a logical target identifier.

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6. The method of claim 5, further comprising determining said logical target identifier from a return correlation tag of said return message and said index, said input and return correlation tags having a predetermined relationship.

5 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the return message comprises at least one of a command response message and an acknowledgment message.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

intercepting an autonomous message from one of the network elements,
10 said autonomous message expressed in terms of an access identifier;
matching the access identifier with an associated logical target identifier;
translating the physical router target identifier to the logical target identifier;
and

15 propagating the translated autonomous message toward the network manager.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the autonomous message comprises an alarm message.

20 10. A method for translating control messages between a network manager and a router, said router represented as a plurality of logical partitions, said method comprising:

intercepting an input translation language (TL1) message from the network manager intended for the router, wherein the first TL1 message is expressed with a
25 logical target identifier;

translating the logical target identifier of the intercepted input TL1 message to a physical router target identifier; and

propagating the TL1 message, including any translated expressions, toward the router.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein said intercepting step further comprises:

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indexing said logical target identifier with an input correlation tag of said input TL1 message.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

5 intercepting a return translation language (TL1) message from the router to the network manager, wherein the return TL1 message is expressed with a physical router target identifier;

translating the physical router target identifier of the intercepted return TL1 message to a logical target identifier; and

10 propagating the TL1 message, including any translated expressions, toward the router.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising determining said logical target identifier from a return correlation tag of said return message and said index,

15 wherein said input and return correlation tags are equivalent.

- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the return TL1 message comprises at least one of a command response message and an acknowledgement message.

20 15. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

intercepting an autonomous TL1 message from one of the network elements, said autonomous TL1 message expressed in terms of an access identifier;

matching the access identifier with an associated logical target identifier;

25 translating the physical router target identifier to the logical target identifier; and

propagating the autonomous message, including any translated expressions, toward the network manager.

30 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the autonomous TL1 message comprises an alarm message.

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17. Apparatus for routing control messages between a network manager and a router, comprising:

means for intercepting an input command message intended for said router,

5 said router partitioned into a plurality of logical router partitions, said input command message expressed in terms of a logical router partition;

means for translating each logical router partition expressed in said input command message into a physical router expression;

means for propagating the TL1 message, including any translated

10 expressions, toward the router.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said translating means comprises: translating a logical target identifier to a physical router target identifier.

15 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said intercepting step comprises: means for indexing said logical target identifier with an input correlation tag of said input command message.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

20 means for intercepting a return message from the router, said return message expressed in physical router terms;

means for translating said physical router expression of said return message into a logical router partition; and

25 means for propagating said return message, including any translated expressions, toward said network manager.